Amendments via Replacement Paragraphs/Sections/Claims

In the Specification:

Please amend the following specification paragraphs as follows:

Page 5, lines 2-10:

FIG. 1 shows a portion of a matrix assembly 100. Assembly 100 includes a vertical board 112 and a horizontal board 116. A type A connector 110 is mounted to board 112 and a type B connector 114 is mounted to board 116. The connectors 110 and 114, each have numerous signal and ground contact tails 230 that make electrical connection to circuit traces on or within the boards. Additionally, each of the connectors have conducting elements that with mating portions 232 (FIG. 2) and 832 (FIG. 8). The mating portions are positioned so that when the type A connector and the type B connector are mated, numerous circuit paths will be completed between board 112 and board 116.

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Page 5, lines 11-14:

In the illustrated example, boards 112 and 116 are conventional printed circuit boards as traditionally found in a matrix assembly. It will be appreciated that only very small portions of the boards are shown. In a commercial implementation, each board would be larger and contain numerous electronic devices.

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Page 7, line 32 - page 8, line 2:

The shield plates 250 fit into the cap 124 and are secured with any convenient means. For example, each edge of the shield plates 250 might fit into a slot in a wall of cap 124. However, in the illustrated embodiment, cap 124 has a floor 252 that includes numerous openings. Each shield plate 250 is cut with slits creating fingers 254. Each of the fingers projects through an opening in floor 252, creating a mating surface within the shroud created by the walls 126 of cap 124. In the illustrated embodiment, the shield plates are held firmly to the cap through an interference fit.

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Page 8, lines 26-29:

A4 Turning now to FIG. 3, a type A connector 110 is shown in exploded view. The connector contains a plurality of wafers 310. As with wafers 210, wafers 310 include a plurality of signal conductors and a shield 336. A plurality of contact tails 330 extend from a lower surface of the wafers for attachment to printed circuit board 112.

Page 8, lines 30-32:

A5 Wafers 310 are stacked side-by-side, with their major surfaces in parallel. The wafers are secured to housing 118. Attachment features 322 on the wafers 310 engage slots 321 in the housing 118. Likewise, features 320 engage other slots in housing 118.

Page 9, lines 5-13:

A6 The conductors of wafers 310 have mating portions that extend at the forward edge of the wafer. In the preferred embodiment, these mating portions fit within recesses formed in the lower surface 352 of cap 120. As in a traditional connector, the recesses within cap 120 are accessible through openings in the mating face of cap 120. As connector 110 is mated with connector 114, cap 120 fits within the walls of cap 124, bringing the mating contact portions of the conductors from connector 110 into the mating area. The mating portions of the signal conductors from connector 114 pass through the openings in the mating face of cap 120 and make electrical contact with the mating contact portions of the conductors from connector 110.

Page 12, lines 7-9:

A7 Turning to FIG. 6, additional details of features of shield 236 are shown. FIG. 6A shows a contact 234. The contact is stamped into forward portion 434 (see FIG. 4C). A gap 610 is provided. Slots 612 and 614 are also stamped in the shield, leaving beams 618 and 620.